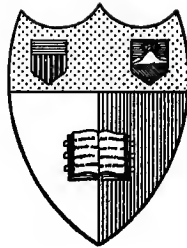


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**The World Alliance  
for Promoting International Friendship  
through the Churches**

**THE WORLD ALLIANCE**

AND

**INTERNATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION**

BY

**GEORGE NASMYTH, PH. D.**

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REPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

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THE HAGUE, HOLLAND  
SEPTEMBER 30, 1919



A460990

# THE WORLD ALLIANCE AND INTERNATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION.

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## REPORT BY GEORGE NASMYTH TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.

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During the past five months, in preparation for the meeting at The Hague, I have visited and conferred with the members of the International Committee and the national councils, in America, England, France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.

The result of this experience is a profound conviction that humanity has a supreme need for the mobilization of all the spiritual and moral forces of its religious life if it is to solve the tremendous problems of the immediate future. The next few years will constitute a period of crisis and of extreme suffering for many of the countries of Europe. During this critical period, solutions must be found for gigantic problems, economic, social and political, problems of labour and capital, of international credit and finance, of immigration, of social sanitation, of shortage of food supplies, coal and raw materials, of transportation congestion and of complicated re-adjustment of national, cultural and racial interests.

These problems can be solved only if they are approached from the point of view of the highest interests of humanity as a whole, but as long as the hatred and the desire for revenge, bred of the passions of the war, continue to domi-

nate the international and social relations of Europe, the drift toward the precipice of ruin and chaos will continue with increasing rapidity. The intensity of the forces of hatred may be estimated by the fact that according to the statistics recently published in the English press, twenty seven wars have broken out in Europe since the armistice was signed.

The most urgent need for the world to day is to overcome the forces of international hatred by the power of international friendship and love. The World Alliance for Promoting International Friendship through the Churches faces the supreme opportunity in its history to meet this most urgent need of mankind. If it responds to this clear call of duty and human need, it will be able to contribute powerfully to the solution of the problem of International Peace, upon which the solution of all other social problems depends.

The immediate steps which are before us are of three-fold character:

(1) to use our existing forces and organization to break down the barriers of hatred and national isolation, and to work effectively towards relations of greater international justice and increased friendship;

(2) to strengthen and extend our international organization and our national councils in every country; and

(3) to outline far-reaching plans for the future growth and activities of the World Alliance, with the ultimate object of being able to mobilize for effective action and international goodwill all the spiritual and moral forces of the religious life of humanity.

### **The League of Nations.**

In the interest of international friendship and the welfare of mankind in the future, the Treaty of Versailles, based as it was necessarily on compromise, must be regarded as presenting only the starting point from which we

must strive to achieve a true peace of the peoples, based upon the Christian principle of love and upon the higher justice of the Golden Rule.

For this need, fortunately, the Treaty makes provision in its official recognition of the necessity for a League of Nations which shall have the power to revise the terms of international treaties in the light of changing conditions. The development of the League into a living reality, with a more democratic constitution and an increasing power of constructive economic action and mutual helpfulness, is generally recognized as offering the best hope of escape from a future international impasse, and the best guarantee for the peace of the world, through its possibilities of future growth in the direction of the Federation of the World.

In its present form, however, the Covenant of the League provides only a skeleton framework of political international action. The economic forces of the world's interdependence will supply it with a body of flesh and blood. The moral forces of humanity however must give the League a spirit and a soul, if it is to become a thing of life and a blessing to mankind, instead of merely an instrument of repression for maintaining a fixed status quo.

In accordance with what I conceive to be the first duty that lies before us therefore, I recommend that the International Committee draw up a set of resolutions to be presented to the League of Nations at its first meeting in Washington. These resolutions should pledge the full moral support of the World Alliance to aid in the development of the League of Nations as an instrument of international justice and peace, and should urge the development of future relations in this direction. The resolutions should express also the voice of the Christian conscience of the world in regard to the conditions which should be

embodied in the mandates to be distributed under the direction of the League, for the trusteeship of the unexploited areas and backward races of the world.

### **Food Relief.**

One of the most important ways in which material expression can be given to the spirit of international friendship is through the organisation of measures for food relief, to prevent some at least of the terrible suffering which will be caused this winter by the breakdown of the economic life of many of the contries of Eastern Europe.

This action is called for not only by humanitarian sentiments but also by considerations of self preservation, because the results of famine and pestilence which follow wide-spread suffering and physical breakdown cannot be confined to the country in which this suffering occurs.

I recommend that a committee on relief be appointed by the World Alliance to make known in all countries the critical conditions and the urgent need for immediate relief for many of the peoples of Eastern Europe this winter.

### **AMERICA. \*)**

At the meeting of the American Council which I attended in New York on May 15, before sailing for Europe on May 29, the Council was reorganized, provision was made for a board of directors consisting of 100 members representing all denominations, and an Executive Committee of 15 members (which also forns the American Branch of the International Committee) was appointed. Among the resolutions adopted at this meeting of the American Council

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\*) The brief reports and recommendations in regard to the National Councils are intended only as supplements to the reports and information given in the handbook of the World Alliance and the earlier reports of Dr. Benjamin F. Battin, to whose energy and devoted service is due the organisation of many of the national councils in the period between the Constance Conference, August 1, 1914, and 1918.

the following are of especial importance in connection with our international work.

"In co-ordinating the work of the World Alliance with the Federal Council of the Churches and Allied bodies, we recommend that the first principle should be to create no new machinery except where the situation shows that such is absolutely needed. To this end we recommend that we keep in close touch and co-operation with the organizations that have already established international relationships, such as the Federal Council of the Churches, the Interchurch World Movement, the Committee of Reference and Council of the Foreign Mission Boards, the United Society of Christian Endeavor, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association and others.

"That the Executive Committee be authorized to take such steps as may be necessary (1) to aid in securing the repeal of such Federal Laws as militate against international friendship, and to oppose the passage of any such laws if proposed, and (2) to encourage all movements designed to secure the passage of laws which have for their object just and friendly relations among the peoples of the world.

"That the World Alliance endorses the movement initiated by the American Council of Education and the National Education Association for the establishment of a Federal Department of Education, believing that such a department can foster and develop the international exchange of students and teachers, and we recommend to all members of the World Alliance, in furtherance of this object, to extend to such students and teachers from other lands as may be resident in their own communities the hospitalities of Christian friendship and goodwill in their several churches.

"That in view of the increasing number of Latin Americans now coming to the United States we urge the members of the World Alliance to extend to these visitors from the lands of Mexico, Central and South America every possible opportunity to acquaint themselves with the ideals and aspirations of our World Alliance.

"That the American Branch of the World Alliance for International Friendship believes that the effective establishment of a League of Nations guaranteeing to

every nation, great and small alike, equal justice, opportunity and safety by the united power of all, is a step of the greatest importance in the upbuilding of the Kingdom of God on earth; and that it records its gratitude to God, and pledges its support in securing the ratification by the Senate of the United States of the Revised Covenant of the League of Nations as an integral part of the Peace Treaty and its devotion in making the League a success.

"That we urge the incorporation at an early date into the Covenant of the League of Nations of a clause guaranteeing freedom of religious belief.

"That we urge the incorporation at an early date into the Covenant of the League of Nations of a clause guaranteeing equality of race treatment, understanding thereby equal treatment before the law of all aliens resident within the territory of the government concerned.

"That the World Alliance for International Friendship, standing as its name implies for the friendship of the nations, calls upon Christians of every land and especially of the United States to use every endeavor to heal the wounds of the war and to promote a spirit of reconciliation between the peoples who have been at war.

"That we call on Christians of every church to unite in those activities that are fitted to remove international misunderstanding, race prejudice and injustice, and to promote more kindly and more just relations and attitudes.

"That we join with the American Bar Association and the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America in urging legislation by Congress providing for the adequate protection of the lives and property of aliens by the Federal authorities.

"That the new world-situation arising through the developing life of the Orient requires of the United States the adoption (a) of a new Oriental policy bringing our laws into harmony with our treaties with China, and (b) of a policy in the restriction of immigration which shall be based on a just and equitable regard for the interests of all the nations concerned, together with the raising of the standards of naturalization and the giving of privileges of citizenship to those who qualify, regardless of race."

The American Council is especially fortunate in its close



relation with the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, which represents 31 denominations, including 130,000 ministers and 18,000,000 Protestants. The Commission on International Justice and Goodwill of the Federal Council cooperates with the Executive Committee of the American Council of the World Alliance in the most effective way possible. This cordial co-operation opens the way for the creation of a great moral power in America to Christianize international relations. The power can be greatly increased by the formation of local branches of the World Alliance in American cities and churches. I recommend that this work be carried out on an extensive scale all through America in the near future.

The American Council is well fitted to undertake also the extension of the World Alliance into Canada, Mexico, Central and South America and I recommend that it be charged with this duty by the International Committee.

### **Visits to European councils.**

On my arrival at Havre on June 8th, I went to Paris for a few days and then crossed to London, where I met with the British Council and had a number of important and most helpful conferences with Sir Willoughby Dickinson. From England I returned on June 24th to France where I was engaged in the re-organisation of the French Council until July 2nd. On June 28th I was present at the signing of the Treaty at Versailles.

From July 3rd—7th I was in Belgium, conferring with Cardinal Mercier at Malines, and forming a preliminary organisation of the Belgian Council at Brussels. July 8th to 15th I spent in Holland, preparing for the meeting of the International Committee at The Hague, returning through Belgium to France, where I remained until the end of July, conferring with the members of our French Council and leading Roman Catholics.

The two weeks August 1—14 I spent in Switzerland conferring with the members of the Swiss Council in prepa-

ration for the World Congress at Geneva in 1920, and with the Roman Catholic International Committee at Fribourg, where plans were perfected for the important organisation described in a separate report.

August 15—20 I spent in Italy conferring with the members of the Italian Council, and then returned to Switzerland, July 21—24.

I spent a week in Germany, from August 25—31st, meeting with Dr. Siegmund-Schultze, Dr. Spiecker, Professor Deissmann and other members of the German Council.

September 1st—5th I was in Sweden conferring with Archbishop Söderblom and Dr. Westman at Upsala, with Dr. Karl Fries and Senator Gullberg at Stockholm, and with Prof. Hjelt and Dr. Loimaranta of the Finnish National Council, at Sigtuna, a historic centre of Scandinavian Protestantism, where through the courtesy of Archbishop Söderblom, I had the privilege of attending a meeting of ministers from all the Scandinavian countries.

September 6—7 I was in Copenhagen attending a meeting of the Danish Council called by Bishop Ostenfeld at his residence, and then returned to Germany September 8—17 for further conferences with the German Council.

On September 18 I crossed from Frankfurt into the French occupied territory at Mayence, and then went down the Rhine into the territory occupied by the American forces at Coblenz, up the Moselle valley to Treves and Luxemburg and so by Metz and Verdun back to Paris which I reached September 20. In Paris I had further consultations with Pasteur Elie Gounelle, M. Jacques Dumas, Messrs. Faivret and Parker, the French delegates to the meeting of the International Committee, and others.

September 26 I returned to Wassenaar to make the final arrangements for the meeting of the International Committee, September 30—October 2, 1919.

### **BRITAIN.**

On June 19th Dr. Atkinson and I met with the members

of the British Council at the office of the World Alliance, 41, Parliament Street, SW. 1, London and made tentative plans for the meeting of the International Committee and for my visits to the councils of the World Alliance on the Continent.

The British Council is fortunate in having been able to enter into cordial relations of co-operation with the leading members of all the Protestant churches of Great Britain including both the Established Church and the Free Churches. It has developed a strong organisation during the war, and its quarterly organ „Goodwill”, edited by the Rev. J. H. Rushbrooke, M.A., is sent to a mailing list of 6,000.

Much of the remarkable advance which the World Alliance has been able to make in Europe under the difficult conditions of the war has been due to the devoted services of Sir Willoughby Dickinson who has maintained close contact, through his central office at London, with the work and growth of all the European councils.

I recommend that the British Council, which has already formed a strong organisation in England, be requested to undertake the extension of the World Alliance into Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada (in connection with the American Council) and other parts of the British Empire.

### FRANCE.

The future peace of the world depends upon the overcoming of the forces of hatred between France and Germany, and their replacement by the power of international reconciliation and friendship. At present only the worst things which have been said by some of the most chauvinistic leaders of the Churches in Germany are known generally in France, and similarly, the most unchristian things which have been uttered anywhere in France amid the passions of war have been spread broadcast over Germany. One of the most urgent needs to which the World

Alliance can contribute is the publication and distribution in each country of those things which express the highest ideals and the sincere international convictions of true Christians in the other countries. For this purpose a central office for collecting and distributing material, with a secretary who can give considerable time to the work, is needed in France, as well as in Germany.

Since the signing of the Peace Treaty, the French Council has been reorganised with the object of making it as representative as possible of the different groups in the religious life of Protestant France. A complete list of the present membership of the French Council is given below.

### French Council.

#### *Members of International Committee:*

- Boegner, Pasteur Marc; 61, Boulevard Beauséjour, Paris XVI.  
 De Faye, Pasteur E.; Professeur de Théologie; 37, Rue de Babylone, Paris VII.  
 Dumas, M. Jacques; 5 bis, Rue de Beauvan, Versailles.  
 Gide, Professeur Charles; 2, Rue Decamps, Paris XVI.  
 Gounelle, Pasteur Elie (Editeur de la „Revue du Christianisme Social” St. Etienne, chez M. Barbier, Villa Myrtille, Mont Dormant (Loire); also 40, Rue Louis Blanc, Paris X.  
 Monod, Pasteur Wilfred; President; 75, Rue du Cardinal Lemoine, Paris V.  
 Faivret, M. Jules, 221, Faubourg St. Honoré, Paris XVII.  
 Patry, Pasteur Raoul; Eglise Libre, Strasbourg; also 6, Place Blot, Caen, Calvados.

#### *Other members of French Council:*

- Bianquis, Pasteur M.; Maison des Missions, 102, Boulevard Arago, Paris XIV.  
 Bois, Henri, Professeur de Théologie; 7, Faubourg du Montier, Montauban.  
 Dalencourt, Madame; Société des Amis; 67, Rue du Theatre, Paris XV.  
 d'Aubigné, Pasteur Henri Merle; 46, Boulevard des Invalides, Paris VII.  
 Dumesnil, M.  
 Faure, Pasteur A. 16, Rue Demours, Paris XVII.

- Jézéquel, Pasteur Jules; II, Villa Brune, Paris II; Lauga, Pasteur Georges; 3 bis, de Puits-Commun, Rouen Mont-Saint-Aignan-les-Rouen (Seine Inferieur).
- Kellerman, Mlle. Caroly, (Secrétaire-Tresorier provisoire), 51, Rue Geoffroi St. Hilaire, Paris V.
- Parker, Pasteur Louis David, 22, Rue de Soussaye, Neuilly sur Seine.
- Paradon, Pasteur E.; 27, Rue des Arts, Roubaix, Nord.
- Reinhardt, Mlle. Miriam; 21, Rue de l'Observance, Draguignan (Var).
- Réveillaud, Sénateur A.; 155, Boulevard de la Reine, Versailles.

An exceptional opportunity will be given for the presentation of the idea of the World Alliance in France at the Assemblée Générale des Eglises Protestantes de France at Lyons, November 10th to 11th, 1919. Dr. Henry A. Atkinson has been invited to attend the Conference as a delegate of the International Committee, and the object and work of the Alliance will be explained also by Pasteur Wilfred Monod and Pasteur Elie Gounelle.

I recommend that the review published by Pasteur Elie Gounelle „Le Christianisme Social” be made the official organ of our Alliance work in France, and that a special World Alliance number be published as soon after Christmas as possible, and sent to about one thousand leading Protestant pastors and most influential laymen in France and French speaking Switzerland.

### BELGIUM.

A Belgian Council of the World Alliance was formed in connection with my visit there in July, and includes members both from the Protestant Evangelical Churches and from the Belgian Missionary Church. The Chairman is Pasteur P. Rochedieu, president of the synod of the Union of the Evangelical Protestant Churches in Belgium, and pastor of the Church of the Museum at Brussels. An invitation has been extended to Dr. Atkinson, representing the International Committee, to attend the Meeting of the

Synod at Liège on November 7th to 8th. I recommend that the International Committee extend invitations to both the Synod and the Belgian Missionary Church, to enter into relations of official cooperation with the World Alliance.

### HOLLAND.

Holland, like Switzerland, furnishes an excellent opportunity for promoting international understanding and friendship, and the excellent beginning which has been made by the Dutch members of the Alliance should be extended with the aim of making the movement in Holland self-supporting and most effective in mediating between and bringing closer together the Christians of England, Germany, France and other countries, which have been separated during the war.

### GERMANY.

It is my profound conviction, based on a personal study of the situation in nearly all the countries of Europe, that in many important respects Germany is the centre of gravity of the problem of international and social peace for the future. At present the truly Christian and liberal forces of Germany are confronted by two perils. On the one side is the danger of military reaction, and a military dictatorship, on the other side is the danger that attempts to suppress by force unrest and disturbances due to extreme suffering and despair may lead to violent revolution and chaos, with profound results upon the social structure; not only of Germany but of Italy, France, and all the other countries of Europe. Great as is the need of Germany for food, raw material, coal and financial assistance, the need of Germany for spiritual and moral assistance is infinitely greater. In this urgent need, the members of the World Alliance can render a great service to their own country and to the world by helping to break down the barriers of

international hatred and by rebuilding the structure of the world's spiritual unity and moral life.

The time is most favourable for widely extending the work of the World Alliance in Germany, and I recommend that advantage be taken of this opportunity to the fullest possible extent. "Die Eiche" published by Dr. Siegmund-Schultze, and the secretarial office connected with it should be made an integral part of our general international service of reconciliation.

As in the case of the other countries, I recommend that the German Council undertake a special educational and membership campaign about Christmas time when the spirit of peace is abroad.

With the separation of Church and State which has been effected under the new German Constitution, a new situation will be created, which should have the careful study of the officers of the Alliance. A Congress has already been held at Dresden to consider the formation of a Federal Council of the German Churches, like the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and one of the problems which should be thoughtfully considered is whether it would best serve the interests of our work to enter into relations with this Federal Council, when it is created, through some such means as the formation of a joint committee on international relations like the joint committee of the American Council. This is chiefly a problem of future development, however. For the present, there is no doubt that the work of the World Alliance in Germany can be extended most rapidly and effectively through independent action by our German Council.

### ITALY.

A special effort should be made to extend the movement of the World Alliance in the Waldensian centres of north-west Italy, because the strength of Protestantism in this region, which sends three deputies to the Italian Parliament, furnishes an important method of influencing inter-

national relations in the direction of friendship and reconciliation.

I recommend that the number of Italian members of the International Committee be increased to eight, and that a special organisation committee be formed, including a representation of all branches of Italian Protestantism, and that this Organization Committee send out an appeal for membership and support to all Protestant ministers and influential laymen in Italy at Christmas 1919.

### SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss churches are of strategic importance for the World Alliance because they constitute a platform by nature truly international in spirit, from which the religious forces of both the French and the German speaking peoples can be reached most effectively. The World Alliance is most fortunate in having the official support of the Swiss churches, which have appointed a Committee of eight members representing both German and French Switzerland, as their official delegates to the World Alliance, and an excellent work has been done by this Committee through the publication of „La Voix Chrétienne”, in French and „Christliche Stimmen” in German. The Members of the Committee are as follows:

Dean A. Herold, President of the Church Council, Winterthur (Zurich), President.

Dr. Ed. Quartier-la-Tente, Conseiller d'Etat, Neuchatel, Vice-President.

Pastor Roger Bornand, Moudon (Vaud), French Secretary.

Pastor Jakob Keller, Kirchenrat, Wattwil (Saint-Gall), German Secretary.

Dr. E. Mützenbergr, Spiez (Berne), treasurer.

Dr. P. Böhringer, Professor at the University of Basel.

Dr. Eugène Choisy, Professor at Geneva University.

Otto de Dardel, Conseiller national, President of the synodal commission of the Free Church St. Blaise (Neuchâtel).

Dean Jakob Meier, Pastor at Frauenfeld (Thurgovie).



**WORLD CONGRESS.**

Geneva, which has been in so large a measure the birth-place of the Protestant Religion, and has been so intimately connected with the whole history of the struggle for the freedom of the religious life of mankind, with all its important spiritual and social consequences, is especially fitted to be the site of the World Congress of the Churches and the centre of many of our international activities, by its selection as the Capital of the League of Nations. Opportunities for co-operation in many beneficent international undertakings will undoubtedly be made possible through informal but cordial co-operation with the International Secretariat of the League of Nations, and it is not improbable that in the future official relations of co-operation may be possible through the establishment of an International Bureau of Religion, similar to the International Bureau of Labour, in connection with the international activities of the League of Nations.

I recommend that Geneva be chosen as the place for holding the World Congress of Churches in 1920. I recommend that the date of the beginning of this Congress be fixed for August 15th 1920 (in case the World Christian Student Congress is called for Wadssena, Sweden, August 1st 1920; otherwise the date of the Geneva Congress could be fixed for August 1st).

The World Congress at Geneva should be made the occasion of a declaration of principles, which will give adequate expression to the spiritual ideals of the World Alliance, and which will supply it with intellectual foundations for its constructive work.

I recommend that a commission be appointed by the International Committee to study the whole international situation and to prepare for the consideration of the World Congress at Geneva an adequate statement of the mission of Christianity in the world crisis which lies before us. Until a common mind and a social consciousness of humanity

is developed there can be little hope of creating a real Society of Nations or of international relations of justice and friendship. To the formation of this common mind and the creation of the spiritual unity of mankind an adequate programme of the World Alliance, carefully worked out in consideration of the whole world situation, can make a powerful contribution.

### **Congress Committees.**

In making plans for the World Congress at Geneva in 1920 I recommend that two special Congress Committees be appointed, a General Swiss Committee, and a local Geneva Committee. For the General Swiss Committee, the Committee of eight, already in existence, would supply the best nucleus and to this Committee could be added a number of other members, whose services would be especially valuable, such as Pastor Adolph Keller, the Pastor of the Peterskirche in Zurich, who has been in close touch with the American Council, through his recent mission as delegate of the Swiss churches. For the local Geneva Committee I would suggest that the members be nominated by Professor E. Choisy, in consultation with the Swiss Committee, and appointed by the International Committee.

### *International Bureau.*

In preparation for the next Conference I recommend that an international bureau be established at the Hotel Beau Sejour, Geneva, about May 1920, and that the question of continuing the international bureau for the next few years at the site of the League of Nations be referred to the next Conference in August 1920 for decision. The activities of the international bureau could be worked out by the international organiser in consultation with the Committee of Management which should be appointed at the meeting of the International Committee at the Hague.

Geneva is also most convenient because of its nearness to Fribourg, which is likely to be the centre of our movement in the Roman Catholic Church (see Report on Roman Catholic Organisation) and this nearness will facilitate friendly relations and cordial co-operation between the Protestant and Catholic branches of our movement.

The Hotel Beau Sejour at Champel, Geneva, is ideally located for a summer conference in Geneva, and I recommend that this Hotel be made the headquarters of our delegates. For the sessions of the Conference we can use either the Aula of Geneva University, or the Church of St. Pierre in Geneva, and for smaller conferences, the Conference Rooms of the Hotel Beau Sejour. In case the Conference should include rather large numbers, e.g., from 150 to 200 members, it would be necessary to take one of the larger hotels on the shore of the lake, such as the National Hotel, for our headquarters.

### INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION.

As one practical method of overcoming the barriers of misunderstanding and international hatred I recommend that the International Committee establish, first in France and Germany, and later in other countries, central press bureaus where the highest expressions of our Christian ideals concerning international and human relations can be collected and sent to other countries, and from which similar expressions of true Christian spirit from other countries can be distributed to the religious and other press of the nation in which the bureau is located.

### SCANDINAVIA.

The Scandinavian countries, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, are among the strongest centres of Protestantism and offer the most favourable ground for the development of the World Alliance work. The excellent organisation

which has been developed in these countries during the war, should be extended with the object of making the work self-supporting and as inclusive and effective as possible.

### **NORTH-EAST EUROPEAN SECTION.**

I recommend that a North-East European section of the World Alliance be formed, consisting of the national Councils of Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. I recommend that a Committee from these countries, under the chairmanship of Archbishop Soderblom, be appointed, charged with the duty of forming Councils of the World Alliance as soon as possible among the new nations of Esthonia, Latvia (Lettland), Lithuania, etc.

### **SOUTH-EAST EUROPE.**

The problems created by the new nationalities of eastern and south-eastern Europe, including the Protestant minorities in Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Jugo-Slavia and Greece, should be made the subject of a special committee.

In Poland, Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania Councils could readily be formed, as the Protestant Churches in these countries are eager to establish close relations with their co-religionists in other countries.

### **AUSTRIA.**

The extension of the World Alliance into Austria is most desirable and I recommend that an attempt be made at once to form an Austrian Council.

### **HUNGARY.**

A Hungarian Council of the World Alliance was formed at a meeting in Budapest March 22, 1919, and includes the following members:

## Hungarian Council.

### Executive Council:

Alexius Petri, Bishop, Calvin tér, Budapest.

Alexander Raffay, Bishop, Deak tér, Budapest.

### Chairmen:

Charles Nagy, Kolosvar.

C. Révész, Kassa.

S. Németh, Komárom.

D. Balthazar, Debrecen.

H. Geduly, Nyiregyháza.

B. Kapy, Szombathely.

N. Jozan, Budapest.

1 ecclesiastical and 9 laymen vacancies.

General Secretary: Rev. J. Victor, Jr., Budapest.

Organising Secretary: Rev. J. Forgách, Péczel.

Treasurer: N. Kéler, Budapest.

### Delegates abroad:

Prof. D. G. Antal, Pápa.

Prof. L. A. Boér, Kolosvár.

J. Pelényi, Budapest.

J. Victor Jr., Budapest, Calvin tér.

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH.

In connection with the World Congress at Geneva in 1920, I recommend that the branches of the Greek Orthodox Church in Eastern and South Eastern Europe be invited to send delegates to this World Congress. Informal communications which have been held with members of the Greek Church indicate that it is not improbable that such an invitation would meet with a cordial response. An effort should be made as soon as possible to establish friendly relations with the Patriarchate at Constantinople, the Metropolitan at Athens, and the Exarchates of the National Churches. No section of the world is in greater need of the message of international friendship and reconciliation than the Balkans, and if the religious forces of these countries could be brought into relations of co-operation

tion through the World Alliance and the League of Nations, a great service would be rendered, not only to the peace of south-eastern Europe but also to the welfare of humanity.

If, in spite of our efforts, however, it should prove impossible to bring the Greek Orthodox Church into co-operation with the Protestant Churches at the centre in Geneva, then an effort should be made to establish a distinct but closely related centre for the Greek Orthodox Church, like the Roman Catholic Centre at Fribourg.

### ASIA.

In order to realise its mission as a world movement the Alliance must seek to establish relations with the religious forces in India, China, Japan, Corea and the other nations of Asia. If the relations between East and West are allowed to drift or if they are dominated mainly by materialistic and commercial forces, race prejudice and misunderstandings will inevitably grow and produce wars a generation hence which will be constitute an unprecedented disaster to the human race. The World Alliance can contribute powerfully towards the bringing of the relations between the European and the Asiatic peoples under the sway of moral law and the principles of justice.

I recommend that the International Committee undertake the formation of national councils of the World Alliance in India, China, Corea and other Asiatic nations at the earliest practicable moment and that in our plans for the future careful consideration be given to the problem of promoting justice and friendly relations with the peoples of the Far East.

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## Addenda.

## THE WORLD ALLIANCE FOR PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE CHURCHES.

*List of Delegates to the International Committee Meeting at The Hague Sept. 30, 1919.*

- America:** Rev. Peter Ainslie, D.D. 537, N. Fulton Avenue, Baltimore.  
 Dr. Henry A. Atkinson (Executive Secretary), 70 Fifth Avenue, New-York.  
 Mrs. Henry A. Atkinson.  
 Rev. Nehemiah Boynton, D.D.  
 Rev. Arthur J. Brown, D.D. 156, 5th Avenue, New-York.  
 Mrs. Arthur J. Brown.  
 Dr. Howard R. Gold, 894 Broadway, New-York.  
 Rev. Frederick Lynch, D.D. (Educational Secretary), 70 Fifth Avenue, New-York.  
 Rev. Charles S. Macfarland, D.D. 105 E. 22nd Street, New-York.  
 Dr. J. A. Morehead, New-York.  
 Dr. George Nasmyth, World Alliance, 70 Fifth Avenue, New-York.  
 Dr. Worth M. Tippy, 105 East 22nd Street, New-York.
- Britain:** Lord Bishop of Winchester (President of British Council), Farnham Castle, Surrey.  
 Very Rev. the Dean of Worcester (Chairman of British Committee), The Deanery, Worcester.  
 Rt. Hon. Sir Willoughby H. Dickinson (Hon. Secretary British Council), London, 41, Parliamentstreet, S. W. 1.  
 Mrs. Creighton, Hampton Court Palace, Surrey.  
 Dr. Henry T. Hodgkin, 7 Old Park Ridings, Winchmore Hill, N. 21.  
 Rev. Alexander Ramsay, 15 Cromwell Place, Highgate, N.  
 Rev. J. H. Rushbrooke, M. A., Hampstead Garden Suburb, N.W. 4.  
 Prof. D. S. Cairns, D.D. (Substitute for Dr. Clifford) Aberdeen, Scotland.

- France:** Jules Faiyret, 221 Faubourg St. Honoré, Paris.  
 Pasteur Louis David Parker 22 rue Saussaye,  
 Neuilly sur Seine.
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 Geh. Konsistorialrat Prof. D. Dr. Deissmann,  
 Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Prinzregentenstr. 6.  
 Pastor Siegmund—Schultze (Secretary-Treasurer  
 of German Council), Berlin O. 17  
 Fruchtstr. 64.  
 Prof. D. Dr. Richter, Berlin-Steglitz, Grill-  
 parzerstr. 15.  
 Dr. Reinhold Schairer, Tübingen (Württem-  
 berg), temporarily at Kopenhagen K. (Den-  
 mark), Bredgade 45.
- Holland:** Prof. Dr. Ph. Kohnstamm, University, Am-  
 sterdam.  
 Mr. René van Ouwenaller, Amsterdam.  
 Dr. J. A. Cramer, J. P. Coenstraat 10, The  
 Hague. (Chairman of Dutch Committee.)  
 Mrs. J. A. Cramer, The Hague.
- Italy:** Sig. R. Falehi (substitute for Rev. W. Kemme  
 Landels), Via Giovanni Somis 12, Turin.  
 Rev. Ernesto Giampiccoli, 107 Via Nazionale,  
 Rome.  
 Dr. D. G. Whittinghill, via Babuino 107, Rome.  
 Mrs. Whittinghill.
- Belgium:** Rev. Henry Anet, 11 rue de Dublin, Bruxelles.  
 Rev. P. Roehedieu, 31 Avenue Louise, Bruxelles.
- Denmark:** Professor Valdemar Ammundsen, Oesterbro-  
 gade 75, Copenhagen.  
 Librarian Holger Larsen (Secretary of Danish  
 Council) Norrebrogade 16, Copenhagen.
- Finland:** Professor Arthur Hjelt, D.D. (Chairman of  
 Finnish Committee), Jungfrustigen 2, Hel-  
 singfors.  
 Dean Yrjo Loimaranta, B.D. Mufeonkatu 5,  
 Helsingfors.  
 Rev. S. Sirenius.



- Norway:** Rev. N. B. Thvedt, Nils Juelsgaten 4, Kristiania.  
Rev. F. Klaveness, Peter Jebsensgaten 9, Bergen.
- Sweden:** Archbishop Nathan Söderblom (Archbishop of Upsala) (Chairman of Swedish Council) Upsala.  
Senator Gullberg, Skövde.  
Mrs. Gullberg, Skövde.  
Dr. Knut B. Westman (Secretary of the Swedish Council), Sysslomansgaten 19, Upsala.
- Switzerland:** Professor Eugène Choisy, Ave Calas 4, Champel, Genève.  
Dr. Ed. Quartier-la-Tente, Conseiller d'Etat (Vice President of Swiss Council), Neuchâtel.  
Professor D. Böhringer, Basel.  
Pfarrer O. Herold (President of the Swiss Council) Pfargasse 1, Winterthur.
- Hungary:** Prof. Dr. G. Antal, Reformed Theological College, Papa, Hungary.  
Mr. Alexis de Boer.  
Rev. John Victor.  
Mr. John Pelényi.
- Latvia (Lettland):** Pastor Irbe.

Others present are:

- Great Britain:** Rev. G. K. A. Bell (Chaplain to His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury).  
Miss Ivy A. Marks (Secretary British Council).
- Switzerland:** Pfarrer J. Keller (Secretary Swiss Council).
- Finland:** Baroness Wrede, Helsingfors.
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**WORLD ALLIANCE FOR PROMOTING  
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE CHURCHES**

**41 PARLIAMENT STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1.**

**70 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, U. S. A.**

Private and Confidential.

**The World Alliance  
for Promoting International Friendship  
through the Churches**

**The Roman Catholic Church**

AND

**The League of Nations**

BY

**GEORGE NASMYTH, PH. D.**

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REPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

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THE HAGUE, HOLLAND

OCTOBER 1, 1919



## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

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In connection with the organisation of the Roman Catholic Church for the work of the World Alliance I have conferred with all of the officers and members of the International League of Catholics for Peace (which had planned an international congress at Liège, Belgium, under the presidency of Cardinal Mercier, for August 10—11, 1914) \*) and many other Roman Catholics, ecclesiastics and laymen, in the different countries of Europe. Among those with whom I have conferred are Cardinal Mercier of Malines, M. Paul Jourdain of Bruxelles, Belgium, and the Abbé Tanquerez, Prof. Chenon, and Monseigneur Batiffol of Paris, the Baron de Montenach, the Abbé H. Savoy, Rector G. Gabriel of the University of Fribourg, M. C. Perrier, President of the Council of State, Fribourg, and about 40 other leading Catholics in various countries.

All the leading Catholics with whom I conferred were unanimous in their agreement upon the following recommendations:

(1) That the Roman Catholic movement, in order to attain its greatest effectiveness, should be organized as a parallel movement, distinct from our organisation of the Protestant Churches, but with the most cordial cooperation and friendly relations between the leaders of the parallel movements.

(2) That the International League of Catholics for Peace would have to be reorganized under a new form and with a new name.

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\*) For further information in regard to the Roman Catholic movement for International Peace before the war see the brief Bibliography at the end of this report.

(3) That the most promising method of procedure would be to work through the Catholic Committee for the study of international problems which had been formed at Fribourg, Switzerland, under the chairmanship of Baron Georges de Montenach (22, rue St. Pierre, Fribourg) during the war, and to broaden this committee into a strong international organisation, which should call a world conference at Fribourg at the same time as our World Congress of Protestants at Geneva in 1920, and which should maintain at Fribourg a central bureau for the organisation of the Roman Catholic religious forces in support of the League of Nations and international peace. The objective of all the work at Fribourg to be the preparation for a Papal encyclical on international peace similar to the famous encyclical "Rerum novarum" which has determined the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church on economic and labor questions for more than a quarter of a century.

The results of my conferences are summarized in the following report drawn up after my final meeting with the Catholic Committee at Fribourg on August 4, 1919. The report is given in English and in the original French.

### **Report of work done and plans for the future at Fribourg, Switzerland.**

Fribourg, August 25, 1919.

#### **Catholicism and the League of Nations.**

A group of Catholics inhabiting Switzerland, being concerned about the conditions under which peace may be re-established and maintained in the future throughout the world, agreed, a year ago, to form an international committee for religious and social studies, composed of a certain number of French, Belgian, Italian, English, American and Swiss persons in order to study together international problems, especially those directly affecting religious in-



terests, and to promote such solutions of these problems as will be most in conformity with justice and liberty.

With this object the committee issued, in July 1918, the following note and presented it to various leading notabilities in the above named countries:

### **Catholic Committee for International Studies.**

*Sir,*

The catastrophe which has overwhelmed the world during the last four years has its origin in the misconception of the principles of Christian justice in all that should regulate the relationships between the nations.

It is therefore more urgent than ever to make those principles penetrate into the mind and to try to apply them to the actual events.

The movement which, more than a quarter of a century ago, resulted in the publication of the encyclical *Rerum novarum* contributed powerfully to illuminate opinion about the rules of justice and love which should govern the economic organisation of nations.

The study of analogous rules which should govern the relations between nations may also be highly efficacious.

It is the function of the Church, through its Supreme Magistrate and its teachers, to proclaim the substance of such rules. She has not failed to do so and we, her sons, have affectionately submitted ourselves to her doctrine.

We wish only to try to bring that doctrine into our own lives, to make it better known and to seek, so far as our strength allows, the solutions which its application to concrete facts might bring to the grave problems of the present hour.

The universality of the present conflict and the multiplicity of the questions of international law which it has opened up, compel us to believe that this problem cannot be solved by a simple liquidation of present facts, but only by a re-establishment of justice as completely as the imperfection of every human work will permit.

To declare that the world is going to be divided up by ill-marked lines of an urgent peace and that after that is done one will organise an equitable League of Nations for the future, is a contradiction of terms, both logical and moral, and one of which the realisation will only aggravate the lack of equilibrium and the political instability which have provoked the crisis to which we are now subjected.

If you think you can lend us your aid in this work of study and labour which the opportunity imposes upon all of us, we shall be much honoured by your adherence.

The new "Catholic Committee for International Studies" was able to obtain quickly the following adherents:

- France:** R. P. Courcoux, Superintendent of the Oratoire, Paris.  
 M. René Bazin, of the Académie française, Paris.  
 M. Imbart de la Tour, Académie des Sciences morales et politiques.  
 M. Georges Goyau, Author, Paris.  
 M. G. Gariel, Professor at the University, Fribourg.  
 R. P. Sertillanges, O.P. Paris.  
 M. M. Chenon, Professor, Paris.  
 M. Victor Giraud, Secretary of the Revue des Deux Mondes, Paris.  
 M. Duthoit, Professor, Lille.  
 M. Deslandes, Professor, Dijon.  
 M. le chanoine Beaupin, Director of the Bureau of Foreign propaganda.  
 M. Laudet, Editor of the Revue hebdomadaire, Paris.
- Denmark:** M. Jørgensen.
- Serbia:** Mgr. Ehrlich.
- Jugo-Slavia:** M. le Comte Voinovitch.
- Belgium:** R. P. de Munnynnck, Professor at the University of Fribourg.  
 We are inviting the following to join us:  
 Mgr. Deploige, Professor at the University of Louvain.  
 M. Nothomb, Author.

M. de Broqueville.  
 M. Strujle.  
 Mgr. Pottier.  
 M. Cyrille von Overbeck.  
 M. Carton de Wiart.

**America, England, Portugal:**

We are trying to find correspondents in Portugal, England and North and South America.

**Italy:**

Dom Vercesi.  
 R. P. Semeria, Genoa.  
 M. Arcari, Professor at the University of Fribourg.

**Switzerland:**

M. Schneller, Advocate and Deputy at Zurich.  
 M. H. Seeholzer, Advocate and Councillor at Zurich.  
 M. H. Perrier, President of the Council of State, Fribourg.  
 M. Maxime Reymond, Secretary of the Swiss Catholic Association.  
 M. l'abbe Dr. Besson, Professor at the University, Fribourg.  
 M. André de Bavier, Writer, Saint-Maurice.  
 Mgr. de Mathies, Geneva.  
 M. Paul Joye, Professor at the University, Fribourg.  
 Mgr. Nunlist, Curé de Berne.  
 M. X. Jobin, National Councillor, Porrentruy.  
 M. von Ernst, Editor, Berne.  
 M. de Montenach, Conseiller aux Etats, Fribourg.  
 M. l'abbé H. Savoy, Professor at the Seminary, Fribourg.

Providence has willed that the victory of the Allies should bring about a peace of justice, reparations, the restoration of law and the establishment of the Nations Covenant which marks the dawn of a new era in the realm of international right.

But we have to make these new institutions live, and how many urgent questions are there not still to be solv-

ed in the light of these principles if we are not to fall back into the criminal errors of the past!

This work, living and being unceasingly renewed, will be precisely the task of the officials of the League of Nations which is soon to be established at Geneva.

It is important that the great moral forces, such as those of Catholicism, should support and enlighten actions which will be difficult to realise but which if well-directed will become very fruitful.

The Catholic Committee for International Studies is prepared to organise at Fribourg — the historic international centre of social development and Catholic doctrine \*) — a permanent international Catholic Secretariat and Bureau which by its proximity to Geneva will be admirably situated for seconding and promoting the actions of the League of Nations in the Catholic circles of different countries.

There should be admitted to this new Catholic organisation in the first instance the inhabitants of the countries which are parties to the League of Nations Covenant or which join the League within the two months after ratification, and, later on, those of other lands whenever such countries are admitted to the League of Nations.

And in order to nourish as rapidly as possible the life of this new creation, the Catholic Committee for international Studies proposes to bring together in August 1920 at Fribourg a conference of its principal adherents (about sixty persons).

The invitation might be sent out under the following heading: "Catholicism and the League of Nations"; "Inter-

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\*) The part played thirty years ago by the Union of Fribourg during the period that preceded the publication of the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* is well known. Also in 1912 a meeting took place at the University of Fribourg on the initiative of M. Vanderpol with a view to create a Union for the Study of the Christian law of nations in connection with the foundation of a chair at the University of Louvain for instruction in this subject brought about by the efforts of M. Mousigneur Mercier, the future Cardinal.

national Conference to aid in restoring the Christian law of nations through the League of Nations”.

The Conference will last for three days.

### PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME.

The persons named below are those whom we propose to ask to give a report or an address.

**First Day.**            *Study of past history.*

*First Session.*        (Report and discussion.)

History of the movement in favour of the restoration of the Christian law of nations in the modern world before the war.

M. Chenon, Professor of the Faculty of Law, Paris, might be asked to make this report.

*Second Session.*    Pacifist attempt during the war and the Christian law of nations.

R. P. de Munnynck, Professor at the University of Fribourg.

*Third Session.*      Papal and Episcopal documents published in the course of the war within the domain of the Christian law of nations.

M. l'abbé H. Savoy, Professor, Fribourg.

*In the evening.*    Informal meeting.

MM. Perrier, Nothomb, Arcari.

**Second Day.**        *Study of present day questions.*

*First Session.*        Christian law of nations in the recent peace treaties. Restitutions, Reparations and new boundaries of States.

M. Duthoit, Professor of Lille.

*Second Session.*    The League of Nations and the Christian law of nations.

Mgr. Deploige or M. Deslandes or R. P. de la Briere.

*Third Session.* New international Labour legislation and the Christian law of nations.

M. G. Gariel, Professor at the University of Fribourg.

*In the evening.* Dinner.

Speaker, Don Versesi (a Pole).

**Third Day.** *Study of Problems of To-morrow.*

*First Session.* Organisation of an international Catholic Bureau and permanent Secretariat. Political organisation — Management — and Financial arrangements.

M. le Baron de Montenach.

*Second Session.* Work of the Bureau and Secretariat. Relations with the League of Nations, with other international bureaux associated with other religious communions and with the Catholic hierarchy.

Problems to be studied.

M. l'Abbe M. Besson, Professor at the University of Fribourg.

*Third Session.* Propaganda — in support of the Bureau and Secretariat and of the League of Nations.

M. J. Zeiller, Professor at the University of Fribourg.

M. Pierre Nothomb.

M. le chanoine Beaupin.

*In the evening.* Public meeting.

His Excellency Cardinal Mercier.

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ORIGINAL REPORT IN FRENCH.

## Catholicisme et Société des Nations.

Fribourg, le 25 Août 1919.

Un groupe de catholiques habitant la Suisse, justement préoccupés des conditions auxquelles la paix pourrait se rétablir et se maintenir désormais dans le monde, convenaient, il y a un an déjà, de former une société internationale d'études religieuses et sociales réunissant un certain nombre de personnalités françaises, belges, italiennes, anglaises, américaines et suisses, en vue d'étudier en commun les problèmes internationaux, spécialement ceux touchant plus directement aux intérêts religieux, et de promouvoir les solutions les plus conformes à la justice et à la liberté.

A cet effet ils rédigèrent, dès le mois de Juillet 1918 la note suivante qui fut présentée à diverses notabilités marquantes des pays énumérés plus haut:

### Comité catholique d'études internationales.

Fribourg, Juillet 1918.

*Monsieur,*

„La catastrophe qui s'est abattue sur le monde depuis quatre ans a sa cause profonde dans la méconnaissance des principes du droit chrétien en tant qu'il doit régir les rapports entre les nations.

Il est donc plus urgent que jamais de faire pénétrer ces principes dans les esprits et d'essayer d'en dégager l'application aux événements actuels.

Le mouvement qui a abouti, il y a plus d'un quart de siècle, à la publication de l'encyclique *Rerum novarum*, a puissamment contribué à éclairer l'opinion sur les règles de justice et de charité qui doivent présider à l'organisation économique des peuples.

L'étude des règles analogues qui doivent présider aux rapports entre nations peut être elle aussi d'une grande efficacité.

Il appartient à l'Eglise, par son Magistère suprême et celui de ses docteurs d'en proclamer la substance. Elle n'a pas manqué de le faire, et nous sommes les fils affectueusement soumis de sa doctrine.

Nous voudrions seulement essayer de nous pénétrer de celle-ci, de la faire mieux connaître, et de rechercher, dans la mesure de nos forces, quelles solutions son application aux faits concrets apporterait aux graves problèmes de l'heure présente.

L'universalité du conflit actuel et la multiplicité des questions de droit international qu'il a ouvertes, nous permet en effet de penser qu'il ne saurait se dénouer par une simple liquidation de fait, mais par une restauration du droit aussi complète que peut le permettre l'imperfection de toute oeuvre humaine.

Déclarer que le monde va être partagé d'après la cote mal taillée d'une paix urgente et qu'ensuite on organisera une société des nations équitable pour l'avenir constitue une contradiction logique et morale dont la réalisation ne ferait, croyons-nous, qu'aggraver le déséquilibre et l'instabilité politique qui ont provoqué la crise que nous subissons.

Si vous croyez pouvoir nous prêter votre concours dans l'oeuvre d'étude et de travail dont l'opportunité s'impose à tous, nous serons très honorés de recevoir votre adhésion".

Le nouveau "Comité catholique d'études internationales" put rapidement recueillir les adhésions suivantes:

- France:**
- R. P. Courcoux, Sup. général de l'Oratoire, Paris.
  - M. René Bazin, de l'Académie française, Paris.
  - M. Imbart de la Tour, Académie des Sciences mor, et polit.
  - M. Georges Goyau, écrivain, Paris.
  - M. G. Gariel, professeur à l'Université, Fribourg.
  - M. R. P. Sertillanges, O. P. Paris.



M. Chénon, professeur, Paris.  
 M. Victor Giraud, secrét. de la Revue des Deux  
 Mondes, Paris.  
 M. Duthoit, professeur, Lille.  
 M. Deslandes, professeur, Dijon.  
 M. le chanoine Beaupin, directeur du Bureau  
 de propagande à l'étranger, Paris.  
 M. Laudet, rédacteur de la Revue hebdoma-  
 daire, Paris.

**Denemark:** M. Jörgensen.

**Serbie:** Mgr. Ehrlich.

**Yungo-Slavie:** M. le Comte Voinovitch.

**Belgique:** R. P. de Munnynnck, professeur à l'Université  
 de Fribourg.

Nous demandons les adhésions suivantes:

Mgr. Deploige, prof. à l'Université de Louvain.

M. Nothomb, écrivain.

M. de Broqueville.

M. Strujle.

Mgr. Pottier.

M. Cyrille von Overbeck.

M. Carton de Wiart.

**Amérique, Angleterre, Portugal.**

Nous cherchons des correspondants en Portugal, en  
 Angleterre et dans les deux Amériques.

**Italie:** Dom Vercesi.

R. P. Semeria, Gênes.

M. Arcari, prof. à l'Université de Fribourg.

**Suisse:** M. Schneller, avocat et député à Zürich.

M. H. Seeholzer, avocat et Conseiller com.  
 Zürich.

M. H. Perrier, Président du Conseil d'Etat,  
 Fribourg.

M. Maxime Reymond, secrétaire de l'Associ-  
 ation catholique suisse.

M. l'abbé Dr. Besson, professeur à l'Univer-  
 sité, Fribourg.

M. André de Bavier, publiciste, Saint-Maurice.  
 Mgr. de Mathies, Genève.

M. Paul Joye, professeur à l'Université, Fri-  
 bourg.

Mgr. Nünlist, curé de Berne.

M. X. Jobin, Conseiller national, Porrentruy.

M. Von Ernst, rédacteur, Berne.

M. de Montenach, Conseiller aux Etats, Fribourg.

M. l'abbé H. Savoy, prof. au Séminaire, Fribourg.

La Providence a voulu que la victoire des Alliés pût amener une paix de justice, de réparations, de restauration du droit et l'établissement de ce Pacte de la Société des Nations qui marque l'aurore d'une ère nouvelle dans le domaine du droit international.

Mais il s'agit de faire vivre ce monde et ces institutions nouvelles, et combien de questions urgentes restent à résoudre à la lumière des principes, si on ne veut retomber dans les criminelles erreurs du passé.

Ce travail vivant et incessamment renouvelé sera précisé-ment l'oeuvre des organes officiels de la Société des Nations qui vont prochainement se créer à Genève.

Il importe que les grandes forces morales, comme celle du catholicisme, appuient et éclairent cette action difficile à réaliser et qui pourra, si elle est menée à bien, devenir si féconde.

Le Comité catholique d'études internationales est prêt à organiser à Fribourg — centre international historique au point de vue du développement social de la doctrine catholique — \*) un Secrétariat et un Bureau catholique international permanent, qui, à proximité de Genève, seraient admirablement placés pour seconder et promouvoir dans les milieux catholiques des divers pays l'action de la Société des Nations.

Seraient d'abord admis dans la nouvelle organisation

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\*) On sait que le rôle joué, il y a quelque trente ans, par l'Union de Fribourg dans la période qui a précédé la publication de l'Encyclique "Rerum Novorum". On sait aussi qu'en 1912 eut lieu à l'Université de Fribourg une réunion tenue sur l'initiative de M. Vanderpol, en vue de la création d'une Union pour l'étude du droit des gens chrétien en corrélation avec la fondation à Louvain par les soins de Mgr. Mercier, le futur cardinal, d'une chaire universitaire consacrée à un enseignement du même ordre.

catholique les ressortissants des pays qui sont parties au Pacte des Nations, et plus tard *éventuellement ceux des autres pays*, à partir du moment où ces pays seront admis dans la Société des Nations.

Afin d'alimenter le plus rapidement possible la vie de la création nouvelle, le Comité catholique d'études internationales se propose de réunir pour août 1920 à Fribourg une conférence de ses principaux adhérents (une soixantaine de personnes environ).

L'appel pourrait être lancé sous la forme suivante:

### Catholicisme et Société des Nations.

(Conférence internationale pour aider à la restauration du droit des gens chrétien par la Société des Nations.)

Le conférence durerait trois jours.

### PROGRAMME PROVISOIRE.

Les personnalités indiquées ci-dessous sont celles auxquelles nous proposons de demander un rapport ou un discours:

**Première journée:** *Journée d'études historiques rétrospectives.*

*Première séance:* (Rapport et discussion.)

Historique du mouvement en faveur de le restauration du droit des gens chrétien dans le monde moderne avant la guerre.

Le rapport pourrait être demandé à M. Chénon, prof. à la faculté de droit de Paris.

*Deuxième séance:* Les tentatives pacifistes au cours de la guerre et le droit des gens chrétien.  
R. P. de Munnynneck, prof. à l'Université, Fribourg.

*Troisième séance:* Les documents pontificaux et épiscopaux publiés au cours de la guerre

dans le domaine du droit des gens chrétien.

M. l'abbé H. Savoy, prof. Fribourg.

*Le soir:*

Réunion familiale. MM. Perrier, Not-homb, Arcari.

**Deuxième journée:** *Journée d'études actuelles.*

*Première séance:* Le droit des gens chrétien dans les récents traités de paix. Les restitutions, les réparations, les limites nouvelles des États.

*Deuxième séance:* Le Société des Nations et le droit des gens chrétien.

Mgr. Deploige, ou M. Deslandes, ou R. P. de la Brière.

*Troisième séance:* La nouvelle législation internationale du travail et le droit des gens chrétien.

M. G. Gariel, prof. à l'Université, Fribourg.

*Le soir:*

Diner en commun. Orateurs: Dom Vercesi, un Polonais.

**Troisième journée:** *Etude des problèmes de demain.*

*Première séance:* L'organisation du Bureau catholique international et de son Secrétariat permanent. Organisation politique, — administration, — org. financière.

M. le Baron de Montenach.

*Deuxième séance:* L'action du Bureau et du Secrétariat. Les rapports avec la Société des Nations, — avec les autres Bureaux internationaux se rattachant à d'autres confessions religieuses, — avec la hiérarchie catholique. — Les problèmes à mettre à l'étude.

M. l'abbé M. Besson, prof. à l'Université, Fribourg.

*Troisième séance:* La propagande en faveur du Bureau et du Secrétariat, — en faveur de la société des Nations.

M. J. Zeiller, prof. à l'Université, Fribourg .

M. Pierre Nothomb.

M. le chanoine Beaupin.

*Le soir:*

Conférence publique. S. Em. le Cardinal Mercier.

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